

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 21, 24, 27, 37, 43 and 51 and leaves claims 23, 26, 29-32, 34-36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44-50 and 52-55 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 34-39 and 41-55.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy extended during the interview of March 28, 2006 during which the outstanding Office Action dated January 23, 2006 was discussed.

Particularly, Applicants discussed with the Examiner as to the reasons for the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 37-39, 43-47 and 51-53 as being unpatentable over Hashemi (U.S. Patent No. 5,337,414) in view of Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,388,013); the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 34, 35, 41, 42, 48, 49, 54 and 55 as being unpatentable over Hashemi in view of Nakamura and further in view of Cheney (U.S. Patent No. 5,285,456); and the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 36 and 50 as being unpatentable over Hashemi in view of Nakamura in further in view of Dixon (U.S. Patent No. 4,637,024).

Applicants were concerned that it appears that the Examiner rejected the claims in a similar manner as in the September 8, 2005 Office Action when an agreement had been reached during the December 6, 2005 Interview as to how the claims overcome the references of record. Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned was informed that the Examiner's position is still the same with the exception that claims as amended by the December 8, 2005 Amendment did not include limitations which were set forth in the claims

by way of the August 8, 2005 Amendment. The Examiner was informed that this was an error and such limitations were intended to be in the claims.

The Examiner acknowledged this error and restated again by an Interview Summary of the interview of March 28, 2006 that it would appear that such amendment would overcome the references of record and may result allowance of the application.

Therefore, the present Amendment amends the claims so as to include the limitations as set forth in the August 8, 2005 Amendment which apparently was missing from the December 8, 2005 Amendment. Particularly, this limitation concerns the converting of the CKD format from the host device into data of a FBA format before the data is stored in the cache. Such features were agreed by the Examiner as not being taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other when said feature is coupled with the amendments made to the claims by way of the December 8, 2005 Amendment. Arguments distinguishing the features of the present invention as recited in the claims were provided in the Remarks of the August 8, 2005 Amendment and the December 8, 2005, said Remarks being incorporated herein by reference.

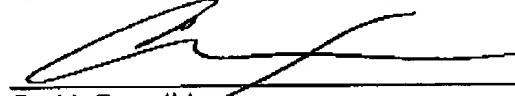
As agreed during the March 28, 2006 and the December 6, 2005 Interviews the present Amendment overcomes the references of record and therefore overcomes the rejections under 35 USC §103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 34-39 and 41-55 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 34-39 and 41-55 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417(500.33021CX5).

Respectfully submitted,

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